



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of Maryland
Northern Division*

*Thomas M. DiBiagio
United States Attorney*

*Vickie E. LeDuc
Public Information Officer*

*6625 United States Courthouse
101 West Lombard Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2692*

*410-209-4800
TTY/TDD: 410-962-4462
410-209-4885
FAX 410-962-3091
Vickie.LeDuc@usdoj.gov*

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**FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION CONTACT
VICKIE LEDUC, AUSA
410-209-4885**

MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE IN GREENBELT MURDER

Greenbelt, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that Rufus Jerry Millegan of Greenbelt, Maryland, was sentenced today to life imprisonment by U.S. District Judge Deborah K. Chasanow for the first degree murder of Tessa Mae Osborne, the kidnapping of Ms. Osborne, and the use of a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence, in connection with Millegan's guilty plea entered on December 9, 2002. There is no parole in the federal criminal justice system.

According to the statement of facts provided to the court as part of the plea agreement, Millegan admitted that he and a co-defendant killed Tessa Mae Osborne, an 18-year old resident of Greenbelt, Maryland, on May 1, 2001 after inducing her to enter their vehicle and taking her to the Agricultural Research Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. Millegan admitted that he and a co-defendant fired bullets into Osborne's body in an attempt to "press" her for information about a home invasion by local drug dealers that had occurred some weeks earlier. Osborne received 11 gunshot wounds

which an autopsy report revealed were inflicted in a pattern consistent with her either slumping forward or lying on the ground. Recovered casings also suggested that the victim had run about 10 yards before falling off the trail to the point where her body was ultimately recovered. Millegan agreed that the FBI had seized photographs of him posing with guns and drugs, as well as three bullet proof vests.

The case is a result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Park Police. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys James M. Trusty and Mythili Raman in Greenbelt, Maryland.